

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-6 are pending in the application. Claims 1-6 have been rejected. Claims 7-10 are being added. Applicants respectfully request allowance of each of pending claims 1-10.

Figs. 1 and 3 were objected to and amended Figs. 1 and 3 are being filed herewith.

5 Applicants respectfully request that the objection to Figs. 1 and 3 are withdrawn.

I. Claims 1-6

Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claims 1-6 were also objected to, due to informalities. The Examiner has
10 indicated that claims 1-6 would be allowable if claim 1 is rewritten or amended to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112 and the claim objections.

The objection to Claims 1-6 was due to an informality in claim 1. Responsive to the Examiner's suggestion, claim 1 has been amended on line 12, to replace--a first possible input bit-- with --a first possible input data bit--, as suggested by the Examiner. The objection to
15 claim 1, and also to claims 2-5 which depend directly from claim 1, should therefore be withdrawn.

Claim 1 was also rejected for an insufficient antecedent basis for the limitation "the first encoder state" in line 20 of claim 1. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection and point out that claim 1, as originally filed, recites on line 6, "a first encoder state". As such, Applicants
20 respectfully request that this rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, and of claims 2-5, by virtue of depending directly from claim 1, be withdrawn.

Claim 1 is also being amended, specifically on line 4, for editorial purposes. Claim 6 is being amended for editorial purposes as well. As the Examiner indicates that claims 1-6 would

be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph and the claim objection, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-6 are now in allowable form.

II. Newly Added Claims 7-10

5 Newly added claims 7-10, including independent claims 7 and 9, are being added to point out various features of applicant's invention. Applicant respectfully submits that claims 7-10 are distinguished from the art of record and recite patentable subject matter consistent with the Examiner's statement on Allowable Subject Matter in the Office action of December 24, 2003. Newly added claim 7-10 are therefore in allowable form.

10 **III. Objection to the Drawings**

Figs. 1 and 3 of the drawings have been amended to pursuant to the Examiner's suggestions, and are attached hereto. The objection to the drawings should therefore be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

Based upon the foregoing, each of claims 1-10 is condition for allowance, which action is respectfully and expeditiously requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachment: Two Replacement Drawing Sheets

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